Electronic Exchanges in Rural areas

2626. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages which have been connected with telephones so far in the year 1999-2000 ;

(b) the number of villages which are to be connect during this financial year 2000-2001 ;

(c) what is the percentage of compliance ; and

(d) the number of Electronic Exchanges installed in the country in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 374,605 villages have been connected with telephones in the country as on 1-4-2000, 33,965 villages were connected with telephones during the year 1999-2000.

(b) 1,00,000 villages are proposed to be connected during the financial year 2000-2001.

(c) As on 1-4-2000, 62% villages have been covered with telephone facility in the country.

(d) 21,557 Electronic Exchanges have been installed in the country till 31-3-2000 in rural areas.

Waiting list of Rural Exchanges

2627. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of exchanges having rural network were 18,360 as on 1-4-98 and more than 12,12,581 people were in waiting list ;

(b) if so, the number of exchanges having rural network after completion of two years and the circle-wise number of villages to be served ; and

(c) the present situation of waiting list ?